

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**October 7, 2013 – 3:00 PM**

**J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM**

**J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
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Present: Jim Sides, Chairman  
Craig Pierce, Vice-Chairman  
Jon Barber, Member  
Mike Caskey, Member  
Chad Mitchell, Member

County Manager Gary Page, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Chairman Sides convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Pierce provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Pierce moved to add a discussion regarding the federal government shutdown as it related to the Department of Social Services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Chairman Sides added the topic as agenda item #3a.

**CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

There were no deletions from the agenda.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2013 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

## **1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Sides made a motion remove item E from the Consent Agenda and place it on the agenda as item #2a for discussion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Proclamation Recognizing Fire Prevention Week 2013
- B. Set Public Hearing for Z 04-13 for October 21, 2013
- C. Set Public Hearing for October 21, 2013 for FY 2015 Community Transportation Grant (CTP)
- D. Set Public Hearing for October 21, 2013 to Amend FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14 HOME Action Plans
- E. WEL Aviation, LLC Limited FBO Agreement (moved to agenda item #2a for discussion)
- F. EAA's Request to Use Community Hangar to Host a Tribute to Veteran's Dinner and Dance

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chairman Sides opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. The following individuals came forward:

- David Hand, President of the Rowan County Veterans Council, spoke in opposition to the proposed cut to the hours of Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle.
- James Arnold spoke in opposition to Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle keeping her job.
- Bill Lane spoke in opposition to the proposed cut to the hours of Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle.
- Karen Black spoke in opposition to the proposed cut to the hours of Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle.
- John Whitfield spoke in opposition to the proposed cut to the hours of Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle.
- David Arrowood spoke in opposition to the proposed cut to the hours of Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle.
- Jimmy Higgins spoke in opposition to the proposed cut to the hours of Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle.
- Lanny Deal spoke in opposition to the proposed cut to the hours of Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle.
- Elaine Howle discussed the proposed cut to her position as Veterans Service Officer. Ms. Howle also discussed the volume of clients she has served during her five (5) years with Rowan County.
- Sandy Troutman read comments she stated were prepared by Andrew Garner. Mr. Garner was opposed to the proposed cuts to the hours of Veterans Service Officer, Elaine Howle.

With no one else wishing to address the Board, Chairman Sides closed the Public Comment Period.

#### **ADDITION**

##### **2a. WEL Aviation, LLC Limited FBO Agreement**

(This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion).

Chairman Sides said he pulled the agreement for grammatical changes.

Chairman Sides said he had spoken with Thad Howell, Airport Director, regarding changes to the wording on page 7, Article VI, paragraph A (2) and Mr. Howell had agreed to the changes.

Chairman Sides also referred to an error on page 10, Article XIII, paragraph A (4). Chairman Sides said the wording should state “ninety” in both places.

Chairman Sides recommended accepting the lease for WEL Aviation with these changes.

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the motion to approve the lease for WEL Aviation with the changes passed unanimously.

#### **3. PUBLIC HEARING AND IMPACT STUDY PRESENTATION – EDC “PROJECT EAST”**

Economic Development Director Robert Van Geons presented the Economic Impact Analysis for a new Gildan Yarns L.L.C. facility (Gildan) in Rowan County. Mr. Van Geons introduced Chuck Ward, President of Gildan.

Mr. Van Geons highlighted the project and explained that Gildan Yarns L.L.C. is a division of Gildan Activewear, Inc., which is a marketer and manufacturer of quality branded basic family apparel. The Company is the leading active wear brand in the print wear market in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Van Geons reported that the proposed project would create approximately 184 new jobs, paying an average wage of \$32,279 per year, and increase the County’s tax base by investing approximately \$130 million. If Rowan County is chosen, Gildan would utilize its existing property and an additional 26 acres on Heilig Road to accommodate the project. Gildan proposed to build a facility in excess of 500,000 square feet for its new yarn-spinning operation.

Mr. Van Geons discussed a previous project by Gildan in 2012.

In order to provide the necessary infrastructure to the site, a new industrial road off Heilig Road would need to be constructed and a 10-inch water line extension approximately 4,500 feet down Heilig Road would be required. The cost for installing the infrastructure was estimated to be \$2,170,795. Mr. Van Geons said

State officials indicated funds would likely be available to help pay for the improvements. Rowan County would be the applicant for the grants and it was estimated that the local funding match would not exceed \$50,000.

Mr. Van Geons said the project would require permitting through the Town of Granite Quarry for zoning compliance as well as erosion and sedimentation control.

Mr. Van Geons discussed the requested modified incentive and said Gildan was requesting a grant that equated to 75% of the value of new real and personal property investments that is calculated based on a period of seven (7) consecutive years in determining value for grant calculation purposes. Gildan was also requesting the County sell approximately 26 acres of vacant, county-owned land in the amount of \$1dollar to Gildan as additional support for the project. Mr. Van Geons said by utilizing grant funds, the County could provide necessary infrastructure to the site at a greatly reduced cost, which would significantly increase the value of the remaining 87 acres of County-owned land.

Gildan expected the majority of construction, equipment, installation, and infrastructure improvements would be complete by December 31, 2015.

Mr. Van Geons reviewed the economic impacts of the proposed project.

Mr. Ward said Gildan would continue to invest and improve the current property. Mr. Ward expressed appreciation to the County, Rowan Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) for the training programs and to the Town of Granite Quarry for working to help achieve the proposed project. Mr. Ward said a decision would be made in the near future.

Chairman Sides opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the potential establishment of a new Gildan Yarns L.L.C. and with no one coming forward to speak on the matter, Chairman Sides closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Barber moved approval of Project East. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey.

Commissioner Barber extended thanks to Mr. Van Geons for his continued efforts to bring business opportunities to Rowan County. Commissioner Barber also thanked Mr. Ward for Gildan's consideration to further expand in Rowan County.

Commissioner Barber inquired as to whether Gildan had any special hiring programs for veterans. Mr. Ward said he was uncertain; however, Gildan's Human Resources Director and the Employment Security Commission (ESC) had been working on the hiring process.

Commissioner Barber stated the County had a lot of veterans returning from Iraq who needed work and that he would appreciate anything Gildan could do for them.

Chairman Sides said he was glad Gildan was considering Rowan County and stated that he had been a customer of Gildan's for years with his t-shirt business. Chairman Sides continued by stating he wanted to provide some facts and statistics the public might not be aware of.

Chairman Sides provided comparisons for the proposed project to the 2012 incentive package approved by the County for Gildan. Chairman Sides also compared the proposed project to the project being considered in Davie County.

Chairman Sides said he understood Gildan was actively recruiting key people from existing businesses in Rowan County and that he thought incentives were designed to put unemployed people back to work.

Chairman Sides did not feel the County should vary from its current incentive policy by giving Gildan 26.6 acres of land. Chairman Sides felt at some point, incentives must stop.

Mr. Ward respectfully disagreed with the statistics that Commissioner Sides had provided by saying numbers could be skewed in different ways. Mr. Ward said Gildan was putting into the economy in excess of what the County might award. Mr. Ward said anyone was welcome to apply for employment and the company would hire the best qualified candidates.

Commissioner Caskey thanked Mr. Ward for Gildan's presence in Rowan County and for considering Rowan County for the proposed expansion. Commissioner Caskey questioned the possibility of Gildan working with RCCC and the ESC in a job fair. Mr. Ward said he would welcome a job fair.

Commissioner Caskey said incentives had to be considered in order for the County to remain competitive. Commissioner Caskey felt the proposed project was a good deal overall based on taxes the County would receive.

Commissioner Pierce expressed appreciation to Mr. Van Geons for his efforts to bring Gildan to Rowan County. Commissioner Pierce stated that incentives were important to recruiting new businesses and jobs. Commissioner Pierce also expressed appreciation to Gildan for listening to the board members concerns.

Commissioner Barber pointed out that while it might cost the County money to provide incentives, it also cost the County money for those who remained unemployed and had to use the County's free programs.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed 4-1 with Chairman Sides dissenting.

## **ADDITION**

### **3A. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AS RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Donna Fayko, Director for the Department of Social Services (DSS), discussed a letter received from the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding the potential impact on DSS programs due to the federal government shutdown. Ms. Fayko explained that the federal 2013 fiscal year ended on September 30, 2013 and the Federal Appropriations Act for FY 2014 had not been enacted. Ms. Fayko stated there had been no continuing resolution to date and as a result, all states were experiencing a lapse of funding for certain federal grants. Ms. Fayko said the federal grants that were impacted in NC were the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, (TANF), the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), the Child Care Development Fund, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIEP).

Ms. Fayko reviewed the impacts the federal shutdown would have on DSS programs that included Childcare, Workfirst, Adult Services and Children's Services. Ms. Fayko said the majority of funding for Child Protective Services (CPS), Foster Care, Adult Protective Services (APS), and Guardianship came from counties with the balance primarily from the federal government. Ms. Fayko stated TANF and SSBG funding were no longer available to states with the federal shutdown. Ms. Fayko said DHHS was evaluating the extent to which federal grant balances from the last federal fiscal year could be carried forward to cover the current fiscal year. Ms. Fayko went on to say there was no assurance of reimbursement from federal funds and there should be no expectations of receiving state funds in lieu of federal funds.

Ms. Fayko discussed potential scenarios that could occur on October 17, 2013 if the federal shutdown was not resolved. Ms. Fayko said the best possible scenario was a need for \$607,000 in October to continue child care and salaries for those employees impacted by the federal dollars.

Ms. Fayko shared the options for the Commissioners to consider, which were, 1) a loan covering expenses with no guarantee a federal reimbursement would be retroactive; and, 2) discontinue the subsidized child care funding and provide the ten (10) day required notice to allow families to make other child care arrangements; \$150,000 would still be needed to cover funding during the ten (10) day notice period.

Ms. Fayko said DSS was working on a contingency plan in the event the federal government did not start back on October 18, 2013. After October 17, 2013, Ms. Fayko said DSS would be looking at \$1.7 million per month needed to keep services at the current level.

Ms. Fayko said she was seeking from the BOC whether to discontinue child care in the interim until the shutdown was resolved or if DSS would continue to provide services and at what level. Ms. Fayko also was requesting an emergency called meeting of the BOC on October 18, 2013 should the situation not be resolved.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to the \$607,000 to cover expenses and asked if it would be child care or would it cover all services that DSS provided. Ms. Fayko responded that it was all services that were currently covered through the SSBG and TANF block grants, including CPS, APS, and Work First.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Mitchell, Ms. Fayko explained that services such as Food and Nutrition, Medicaid and SSI, were currently solid according to the federal government until October 17<sup>th</sup> when no programs were guaranteed.

Commissioner Pierce asked if Ms. Fayko was asking for the County to loan the \$607,000 with no guarantee of getting it back and Ms. Fayko responded the option was a consideration.

Commissioner Mitchell suggested that if the BOC took that option, to go ahead and send the ten (10) day notice period out so that in the next month, it would not require another \$150,000.

Commissioner Pierce asked Ms. Heidrick how the situation would impact the current fund balance. Ms. Heidrick said the County could cover the \$607,000 for the services discussed through the month of October but the County could not sustain \$1.7 million month after month.

Commissioner Mitchell asked about the history of reimbursement by the federal government during a shutdown. Ms. Fayko responded that in 1995, the federal government retroactively reimbursed states and counties.

Commissioner Pierce said he wanted to clarify that there was no guarantee on the \$607,000 and Ms. Fayko agreed.

Commissioner Pierce said he wanted all to understand the \$607,000 was not a loan, as a loan had a guarantee.

Commissioner Pierce moved to offer DSS \$607,000 with the hope that the County would get a partial reimbursement. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, provided the motion included instructions to go ahead and cover the notice requirements. Commissioner Pierce agreed the notice requirements were included in the motion.

Chairman Sides was 100% opposed to putting forth money to cover what the federal government was supposed to pay; however, he realized in this situation, the people affected would suffer. Chairman Sides said it was because of these vulnerable people that he would vote to approve the funding for this one period of time.

After further discussion, Chairman Sides repeated the motion to approve \$607,000 to fund all programs through the end of the month and that the letter would go out immediately to the child care services that the County would no longer fund after the end of this month.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING FOR CUP 07-13**

Chairman Sides read the Chairman's Speech (Exhibit A) and declared the public hearing for CUP 07-13 to be in session. Chairman Sides said the hearing would focus on an application submitted by Sunlight Partners LLC to construct a 5 megawatt solar energy system on Tax Parcel 417-019 located at the 1000 block of Cruse Road.

The Clerk swore in those wishing to provide testimony during the hearing.

Senior Planner Shane Stewart presented the Staff Report (Exhibit B), as well as a power point presentation (Exhibit C). Mr. Stewart said Sunlight Partners, LLC was requesting a conditional use permit (CUP) to construct a 5 megawatt ground mounted photovoltaic solar energy system on Tax Parcel 417-019 located in the 1000 block of Cruse Road on a 45.55 acre Rural Agricultural (RA) zoned parcel owned by Alice Davis. Mr. Stewart reported that ZTA 03-12, approved March 4, 2013, amended the zoning Ordinance to permit solar energy systems greater than 6,000 square feet in the RA district subject to the issuance of a conditional use permit in lieu of requiring Commercial, Business, Industrial (CBI) or Industrial (IND) zoning.

Mr. Stewart said more information was contained in the Staff Report (Exhibit B) regarding the conditional use requirements and evaluation criteria. Mr. Stewart said Staff had received six (6) calls from citizens with questions regarding the application.

Mr. Stewart explained that three (3) separate motions were necessary to adopt the findings of fact, which are based on the evaluation criteria, and one (1) motion to approve, deny or table the request. Mr. Stewart provided the Board with example Findings of Fact (Exhibit D). Mr. Stewart also said Staff encouraged consideration of the following conditions should the Board approve the request:



1. Obtain a commercial driveway permit from NC Department of Transportation
2. Ensure compliance with applicable erosion and sedimentation control standards with Environmental Management Staff
3. Maintain signage at the facility entrance warning visitors of potential hazards

Alice Davis said she had owned the farm since 1962 and she spoke in support of the conditional use permit.

Mike Fox, an attorney with the firm of Tuggle Duggins, representing Sunlight Partners, LLC provided the Board with a report (Exhibit E) regarding the conditional use permit application. Mr. Fox reviewed the information contained in the report (Exhibit E).

Nathan Murdoch, Sunlight Partners Project Manager, explained that Sunlight Partners was a wholly owned subsidiary of Kay Street Capital which invests in renewable energy projects. Mr. Murdoch said solar farms do not have sound, smell or generate extra traffic. Mr. Murdoch said the construction period would last three (3) to four (4) months, noting there would be a little disturbance during that time period, and would employ approximately fifty (50) to eighty (80) people. Mr. Murdoch said the components of the solar sights were basic as there would be a fence to secure the site along the perimeter, and there would be signage to indicate there was low voltage. Beyond the fence, there would be grass planted inside that would be low growing to keep the site in good condition. Mr. Murdoch said there were no plans at this point to include livestock since it would create some liability. Mr. Murdoch said another component to the site would be the inverters to convert the electricity from one form to another. Mr. Murdoch went on to say the electricity gets plugged into the local grid so it can be used by the community, but it could not be plugged in to any particular home. Mr. Murdoch said the panels would be facing south and off the ground so it would be a peaceful, passive use of the land.

With no one else wishing to provide testimony in the case, Chairman Sides closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Mitchell moved that the development of the property in accordance with the proposed conditions will not materially endanger the public health or safety.

FACT: The required warning signage and proposed 6 foot fence will both warn individuals of potential hazards and restrict unauthorized access.

FACT: Site construction will be in accordance with the Building Code Enforcement Department and engineering certifications to ensure the panels are properly installed and securely anchored.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell moved that the development of the property in accordance with the proposed conditions will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property, or that the development is a public necessity, and;

FACT: No material evidence was presented suggesting this request would injure property values.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell moved the location and character of the development in accordance with the proposed conditions will be in general harmony with the area in which it is located and in general conformity with any adopted county plans.

FACT: Planning Staff provided testimony regarding potential noise, glare, and dust impacts for the operation based on industry research and a visit to a similar facility in Mount Airy, NC known as the Ararat Solar Farm.

FACT: Noise levels for the internally located inverters should not be substantial at the property lines.

FACT: According to the staff report, panel glare should be similar to that exhibited by agricultural crops, grasses, and bodies of water.

FACT: The landscape buffer identified on the site plan along with existing vegetation should reduce visibility to surrounding properties.

FACT: The Eastern Rowan Land Use Plan recognizes the numerous resource based industries such as quarries and forestry related uses in eastern Rowan. As such, this use would capture the solar energy resources and provide a “clean” energy option for electricity generation.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve CUP 07-13 passed unanimously.

## **5. PROPOSED VSO REDUCTIONS-IN-FORCE**

County Manager Gary Page reported that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) voted during regular session on September 16, 2013 to table items #5 and #6 of the memo for Proposed Reductions-In-Force for the remainder of fiscal year 2013-2014. Item #5 would eliminate a part-time clerical support position in the Veterans Service Office (VSO). Item #6 would reduce the VSO's hours from

forty (40) hours to nineteen (19) hours. This reduction would eliminate benefits, including health insurance, for the remainder of fiscal year 2013-2014.

Mr. Page said pursuant to past discussions, Commissioner Caskey proposed that the BOC approve items #5 and #6, and with the proposed savings from the reductions-in-force, use the funds to employ a second part-time (19 hours) VSO. The schedules for the two (2) part-time VSO's would be coordinated to offer veterans forty (40) hours of service and save taxpayers' money.

If approved, this arrangement would save the salary of the part-time clerical position - \$7,500, health insurance cost - \$6,052, twenty-one (21) hours of the current VSO salary - \$12,000, and approximately \$4,000 of retirement and 401K benefits for the remainder of the fiscal year, or \$29,000. \$12,000 would pay for the second VSO, and the remaining \$17,000 would be used for training and accreditation.

Commissioner Caskey said the project was a work in progress. Commissioner Caskey expressed appreciation to the veterans who had come out tonight, to those he had spoken to in recent weeks and to those who had sent emails. The issue, according to Commissioner Caskey, was very important in the County.

Under the current proposal, Commissioner Caskey said the first step was to cut the current position to nineteen (19) hours and eliminate the administrative position. Commissioner Caskey said the savings resulting from the cuts would assist in hiring two (2) additional veteran resource officers at nineteen (19) hours each. The first officer would be hired in November and the second officer would be hired in May. Commissioner Caskey said this would increase the hours of operation in the office from forty (40) hours a week to fifty-seven (57) hours, providing an additional seventeen (17) hours. Commissioner Caskey noted this would provide greater flexibility, more service and extended hours for veterans who work. Commissioner Caskey said there would also be a slight budget increase next year by approximately \$3,000. Commissioner Caskey said a key component would be that once the plan was implemented on November 1, 2013, the County would be instructed to do a detailed audit of the office so that the Commissioners would have figures when considering the positions in May.

Commissioner Caskey moved to reduce the current VSO position to nineteen (19) hours per week, eliminate the administrative position, hire two (2) additional VSO's at nineteen (19) hours per week, the first one on November 1<sup>st</sup> and the second one by May 1, 2014; to also perform an audit of the department by May to see the numbers of who was being helped and who was not. Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion.

Commissioner Pierce said the proposal was a compromise to let more people be involved and to provide better coverage for the position. Commissioner Pierce said as the matter moved forward and it were to become apparent that additional

part-time officers were needed, the Board would be favorable to adding positions. Commissioner Pierce said the issue was not about cutting the position but rather expanding the position. Commissioner Pierce said he hoped all the veterans the Commissioners had heard from would give the program time to work and allow the Board to “fine tune” what was best for all veterans of Rowan County. Commissioner Pierce said he knew the matter was an emotional topic and he appreciated all the veterans’ service and had never tried to diminish their service.

Mr. Page said if the vote was in the affirmative, the current VSO would work full time until a half-time employee was hired. Mr. Page explained that the person who was hired would have to be accredited and go through training.

Commissioner Mitchell said when the issue was first raised, he had viewed it skeptically. Commissioner Mitchell said he had received phone calls about the VSO office and how it operated, with some of the calls being positive and some negative. Commissioner Mitchell said the current VSO, Elaine Howle, through no fault of her own, had to be out of the office for training, as well as vacations and both required the office to be shut down for a total of approximately one month out of the year. Commissioner Mitchell said a positive with Commissioner Caskey’s proposal was there should be no down time in office hours. Commissioner Mitchell said the County, in May, would go from the equivalent of one full time position to one and a half. Commissioner Mitchell said increasing the service hours to fifty-seven (57) would be an extreme benefit. Commissioner Mitchell said overall the County was working on a system that would serve veterans better.

Commissioner Barber felt the proposal had the appearance of Rowan County’s version of a federal government shutdown. Commissioner Barber said Mr. Page had delivered the proposed budget to the BOC the second meeting in May and the proposal was not in the budget nor discussed during budget work sessions. Commissioner Barber said he remembered from previous audits that there was a recommendation that the VSO was actually understaffed.

Mr. Page said the department had been audited three (3) times in the past four (4) years with the last audit in the spring of 2012. Mr. Page said the recommendation from the audit was to add a part-time secretary, which was done through the budget. By cutting the hours of that position, Mr. Page said it amounted to about \$10,000, and would help fund a second part-time VSO.

Commissioner Barber said he could support a proposal to keep the current operation as is and to add another full time person. Commissioner Barber felt the veterans deserved more, not less. Commissioner Barber mentioned that Rowan County had more and more veterans returning home. Commissioner Barber said if the issue was so necessary, it should have been brought up during the budget process.

Commissioner Mitchell pointed out if the motion passed, the County would be providing more services by going from forty (40) hours to fifty-seven (57) hours.

Commissioner Barber said he would prefer keeping the VSO as is and adding another full time person. Commissioner Barber went on to say that later in the meeting the Board would be talking about investing in the Salisbury Mall and he would rather invest in the veterans.

Commissioner Caskey said after the changes were implemented there would be seventeen (17) additional hours a week of veterans' services. Commissioner Caskey went on to say the Salisbury Mall would be a great place to move the Veterans Service Office. Commissioner Caskey said once again, this was a start to the process of updating and reorganizing a department to make it more customer friendly and service driven.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed 4-1 with Commissioner Barber dissenting.

#### **6. CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO CURRENT AGENDA FORMAT**

Commissioner Pierce said since an increasing number of citizens from Rowan and surrounding counties were viewing the Board's meetings on cable networks and the internet, he would like to suggest the Board add an Announcement section to the current agenda format. Commissioner Pierce felt the announcements would provide viewers with an opportunity to hear about the different activities, programs and specialized information taking place in the County and its different municipalities.

Commissioner Pierce asked the Board to consider adding an Announcement section just before or after Public Comment Period. Commissioner Pierce stated he knew a public hearing must be held for any text amendments to be adopted.

Commissioner Pierce said he was suggesting each municipality have the capability of adding an announcement to the County's website for a municipality sponsored event and to have the announcement placed on the County's agenda. Commissioner Pierce said the suggestion did not include general public announcements. Commissioner Pierce stated the announcements listed on the agenda would be at the discretion of the Chairman. Commissioner Pierce said if there were three (3) Commissioners who wanted to add an announcement, it would also be acceptable.

Commissioner Barber said he would like to see this added before the Public Comment Period. Commissioner Barber said he knew the Board meetings were shown on the government access channel and he felt it might be a good idea to have a special segment showing upcoming events to increase information to the public.

Chairman Sides suggested the municipalities communicate with the City of Salisbury regarding Access 16 to air their announcements. Chairman Sides said the Announcement section on the agenda was an announcement from the Board and he did not wish to get involved in additional promotions. Chairman Sides asked Commissioner Pierce how many announcements each municipality could bring forth and Commissioner Pierce responded each municipality could only bring one (1) item, per agenda, provided it was a municipality sponsored event.

Chairman Sides said he felt it would be important to spell out in the wording of the proposed text amendments exactly what was expected of the municipalities. Chairman Sides said he understood announcements provided would only be read one time.

Commissioner Pierce said announcements would also be on the County's website where upcoming events were listed. Commissioner Pierce went on to say that each municipal clerk would be responsible for filling out a website form and sending it to the County. The County's Clerk to the Board would then submit the announcements to the Chairman for approval of items that were appropriate to list on the agenda and the County's website.

Commissioner Mitchell stated that many years ago, the BOC had an item on the Agenda, "Reports from Liaisons" and this was in the same vein. Commissioner Mitchell said in a related issue, he had received several complaints that Access Channel 16 had moved to a format where if you did not have a digital cable box, it would not show on TV. Commissioner Mitchell said he would like to see if technology permitting, the County could get back to as many TVs as possible to access the Channel.

Chairman Sides said he would like to suggest that Commissioner Pierce work with the Clerk to the Board for the wording on the proposed text and the text should be brought back to the Board for consideration and scheduling of a public hearing.

## **7. CONSIDER SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

Chairman Sides stated that in early September, the Board received an offer in the amount of \$3,500 for the purchase of property located on Hill Top Drive in the Spring Valley Subdivision. The property is known as Tax Map/Parcel 209 069. According to the Tax Administrator's Office, the property is non-buildable because the property is low and wet. The tax value is \$9,520. The Board voted during regular session on September 16, 2013 to declare the property as surplus and to advertise for upset bids. The bid for \$3,500 was advertised and no additional bids were received.

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to sell the property in the amount of \$3,500 and authorize the County Manager and Chairman to execute passed unanimously.

## **8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

### **HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

An application has been received by Patricia Bonds Beck. The appointment would fill the unexpired term of a deceased member. The term ends January 31, 2016.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Patricia Bonds Beck and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **ROWAN COUNTY TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Suzanne Jones and Andrew Waters have submitted their resignations due to a change in employment and a change in residency in Rowan County. The following have submitted applications for consideration to fulfill the remainder of the terms:

- Nicole McPherson, representative for lodging
- Michelle Patterson, representative interested in tourism development

The two (2) terms expire June 30, 2014.

Commissioner Barber nominated Nicole McPherson and Michelle Patterson and the nominations passed unanimously.

### **JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL**

Social Services Director Donna Fayko requested Rebecca Smith (a Cabarrus County resident) be appointed as the DSS designee. Ms. Smith would replace the current designee. There are no term limits with this appointment.

Commissioner Mitchell said his preference was to normally appoint a Rowan County resident.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the County's policy to appoint Rowan County residents to advisory boards and committees. Chairman Sides said the appointment would be postponed until the first meeting in November to give staff time to notify Ms. Fayko of the Board's preference to appoint a Rowan County resident.

## **9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick presented the following budget amendments for the Board's consideration:

- Social Services – Revised expenditures and/or revenues based on Funding Authorizations received from the State (for Adult Homes Specialist, SSBG Adult Day Care and Family Reunification) - \$41,783
- Social Services – Revised expenditures and/or revenues based on Funding Authorizations received from the State – (for Adult Protective Services, Child Day Care Administration and Child Day Care Direct Payments) - \$137,912

- Social Services – Revised expenditures and/or revenues based on Funding Authorizations received from the State (for Social Services Block Grant, Work First Block Grant, TANF Child Welfare Workers and SSBG In Home Aide) - \$16,654
- Sheriff – Recognize funds awarded in the 2013 Justice Assistance Grant and post to proper expense accounts for purchase of items - \$11,825

Commissioner Pierce moved approval of the budget amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

#### **10. CLOSED SESSION: TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY**

Commissioner Pierce moved at 5:20 p.m. to enter Closed Session in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(5) to consider the purchase of real property. Commissioner Caskey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:43 p.m.

Commissioner Pierce moved to direct County Manager Gary Page to negotiate with the property owner for the disposition of the Salisbury Mall. Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Barber moved to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Barger, CMC, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board/  
Assistant to the County Manager